

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 13 and 16 are amended and claims 6, 14 and 15 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the features of allowable claim 6. Claims 7, 13 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form. No new matter has been added. Claims 20, 21 and 25 are allowed. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-13, 16-21 and 23-25 will remain pending in the patent application.

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 as the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not present any new issues that would require further consideration and/or search as the amendments merely amplify issues discussed throughout the prosecution; (c) do not present any additional claims without cancelling a corresponding number of claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Lee (U.S. Patent No. 5,930,610). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 14-15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering moot the rejection of these claims.

In order to expedite prosecution of this application, and without conceding to the rejection, claim 1 has been amended to recite the features of allowable claim 6. Therefore, claim 1, as amended, is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-5, 8, 10-12 and 24 are patentable over the cited portions of Lee at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Lee are respectfully requested.

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Lee in view of Ahmed *et al.* (hereinafter "Ahmed") (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0056304). Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Lee in view of Kazama *et al.* (hereinafter "Kazama") (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0034872). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As noted previously, claim 1 has been amended to recite the features of allowable claim 6. Therefore, claim 1, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Claim 23 is

patentable over the cited portions of Lee, Ahmed, Kazama and any combination thereof at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Lee in view of Ahmed and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Lee in view of Kazama are respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 7, 13 and 16-19 were objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 7, 13 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 17-19 are patentable over the art of record at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 16 and for the features recited therein. Claim 6 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The rejections and objections having been addressed, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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